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The Word and its Semantic Structure

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ANNOTATION

The article is devoted to semasiology. A word has a specific meaning to join with another word in which its cognate is already included, which is an important correct linguistic indicator of this meaning. The semantic structure of words is discussed and reflected in examples.

KEYWORDS: semantics, lexical meaning, lexicology, semasiology, etymology, onomastics, semantic signs, semantic or conceptual field, translation.

Every language in the world undergoes constant shifts, and any living language will eventually encounter change. Languages change over time at every level of structure, including vocabulary, phonology, morphology, and syntax in day-to-day communication on a personal level because lots of individuals are so closely connected to their language that they may also fail to notice its changes. Though languages do alter, some do so for the better while others decline or even die. However, languages do indeed change and some languages flourish, some expand and some languages even die. As stated by Ferdinand de Saussure: "Time changes all things: there is no reason why language should escape this universal law. Languages are dynamic systems that are always changing. The way people use language reflects these developments. Language users frequently are unaware of this evolution or make no attempts to control it. These changes stem from various causes: they often mirror evolution of the various aspects of society Aitchison¹ such as the technological and cultural environment. Language contact, through migration of communities or movements of individuals, is also an important factor. Among all the different aspects of language evolution, we focus on lexical semantic change. Bloomfield² defines it as "innovations which change the lexical meaning rather than the grammatical function of a form." The French term *vilain*, which means villain in English, is one example. In the languages of the 13th century, a country peasant was a villain. After the feudal system was abolished, the word gradually came to denote what it does today—a scoundrel or criminal.

Pronunciations change with time, new words are coined or borrowed, the meaning of old words shifts, and morphology either develops or degrades. Change may occur at a different rate depending on the location, but whether it happens quickly or gradually, it does so for a good reason.³ For language learners, understanding

¹ Aitchison, J. *Language Change: Progress or decay?* (3rd ed). NY: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

² Bloomfield, L. *Language*. In University of Chicago Press. 1933.

³ Jones, M. & Singh, I. *Exploring Language Change*. – NY: Routledge, 2005.

how languages develop and what causes such changes is crucial. For linguists who adopt a descriptive mindset and acknowledge that change is unavoidable and does occur for a better cause for all human sorts, it is also an important topic.

There are types of English language change which include lexis (word), semantics (meaning of word), phonology (sound), and syntax (grammar) and the study of these different types can be extremely complex. Therefore, merely a general overview and a few examples of various kinds of change will be covered, with the goal being to thoroughly understand how word meaning can change semantically.

The tasks performed by the research include:

- to look into the word's overall condition and semantic makeup.
- to look into the issues with word meaning changes;
- to discover the connections between word meaning changes in English and Uzbek;
- to look into word meanings based on cognitive analysis;
- to identify semantic changes in verb, noun, and adjective terms;

Word meaning changes are referred to as semantic change. It essentially captures how a word's meaning has changed over time. Semantic progression, shift, drift, and broadening are further terminology used to indicate semantic change. *Semantic structure of a word.*

Semantics is the name of the branch of linguistics that deals with the study of meaning. The two main categories of meaning are typically described by linguists. In the identical sets of individual forms of various words, such as "girls," "tables," "lakes," and "plates," the grammatical meaning is evident. Multiple meanings are intended grammatically. The grammatical definition of past tense is worked, played, or finished. A word can have multiple grammatical meanings in the communication process (the outfits on the girls are lovely). Changes in the grammatical forms of the same word have no bearing on its lexical meaning. When a term is employed in one of its lexical meanings, it remains stable and unaltered in the sentence. Therefore, lexical meaning belongs to a word as a language unit in all of its manifestations (go-went-gone). Although the grammatical meanings of the words go, goes, went, going, and gone differ, they all refer to the same semantic concept: the act of moving. The structure of lexical meaning is fairly complicated since it is constructed up of various elements. The majority of linguists distinguish between three primary lexical meaning components. The relationships between these three components (denotate, significate, and a word) can be roughly illustrated by the well-known semantic triangle of Ogden and Richards. They are: the denotative component, which is the area of the extralinguistic world expressed in a word; the significative component, which is a typical notion or concept, a complex of features, characteristic of an object; and (denotate).

A word and a significate have a direct relationship, and a significate and a denotate have a direct relationship. However, there is no direct connection between a word and its denotate. Only the significate may establish it.

Connotation is referred to as a word's connotative element and is a secondary meaning. illustrating how a person would react to an object. Well-known, famous, and notorious are some adjectives used to describe someone's emotional state.

1. Political Factor. When people move to a new society, they make unsatisfactory progress in learning the native language. They subsequently transfer these little errors to the children they raise and those in their

social group, eventually changing the language. Along with the linguistic changes brought on by immigration, politics also has an impact on language development in more direct ways through public discourse. Examples include the terms "tree-hugger," "eco-friendly," "carbon footprint," "greenwashing," "locavore," "eco-terrorism," and "green collar jobs," which have emerged as a result of the recent rise in environmental consciousness and environmental policies. Just four years ago, during the U.S. presidential election, the typical Joe or common citizen was abruptly displaced by Joe the plumber as a result of one of thousands of candidate-voter conversation.⁴ Today's writers are urged to treat women and men equally and to use pronouns and nouns that are both gender-neutral and inclusive. Police officer for policeman, firefighter for fireman, and humankind for mankind, as examples.

2. The factor of technology. Although language changes naturally slowly, the internet has accelerated this process even further. For instance, several brand new words that are not yet included in the Oxford English Dictionary have entered common usage, such as the verb to "google," "facebooking" and many more.⁵ The text messaging language is something new the abbreviation such as LOL, BFF, IMHO, and OMG (that's laugh out loud, best friends forever, in my humble opinion and oh my God) have recently added in the Oxford Dictionary, legitimizing the terms used by millions in texts, emails and instant messages.⁶
3. Politics, economics, and technology typically cause social changes, which then result in language changes; in other words, once society begins to change, language change produces special effects. In almost every society, some people enjoy social prestige, power, and wealth while others have little access to these resources. The words and phrases we use today may never be the same as those our parents or grandparents used.
4. Foreign influence factor. When food to which it refers became widely accepted by English speaking people, the Italian word pizza finally made it into the language. Glasnost, another term that was borrowed from Russian to indicate a policy of openness and frankness in Soviet political life following the Gorbachev era, was previously unknown to the English-speaking society.⁷ Even while borrowing is very common, not all loanwords end up being incorporated into the language of the borrower. Many are merely passing phenomena that vanish in a comparatively short amount of time. The likelihood of the borrowing being preserved increases if the word is used to describe something for which the language of the borrower lacks a word, as is the case with the word pizza in the example above. In this condition, Keller⁸ stated that language changes due to various reasons. These a number of reasons include political pressure, colonization, and invasions, to name just a few. The development of new phrases or alterations to the semantic meaning of words already in use are required by modern technologies such as cell phones and advancements in the natural sciences.

⁴ Cooper, M. & Powell, M. The New York Times: Politics. Article retrieved on Jan 2, 2012, 2009. – p.411.

⁵ Duffy, J. Google calls in the "language police." BBC news Article retrieved on Jan 10, 2012. 2003.

⁶ Yoskowitz, A. (2011). Afterdawn: Oxford Dictionary adds 'LOL,' 'BFF,' other slang. Article retrieved on Jan 17, 2012.

⁷ Aitchison, J. (2001). Language Change: Progress or decay? NY: Cambridge University Press. (3rd ed) – p.31.

⁸ Keller, R. (1994). On language change: The invisible hand in language. London/New York: Routledge.

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